

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4744

### 1. Name

Historic 704 – 730 South Bethel Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 704 – 730 South Bethel Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number  
city, town state & zip code telephone

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The west side of the 700 block of S. Bethel St. is comprised of two and three-story houses showing a wide range of styles, most the result of earlier houses being remodeled. The block contains a group of very early two-bay wide, 2 1/2 story brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows. The dormer windows originally had a simple broken pediment.

704 – 716 S. Bethel St. are two-and-a half stories in height, 13', 14', 19', 13', 15', 17', and 13' wide, respectively, and occupy lots 60' deep. 708 has been raised to a full three stories and has a late Italianate-style cornice. These early two-room deep houses were built c. 1810.. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only entrance to the backyard is through the sallyport located in the center of 704 – 706 and the wide opening between 712 – 714. This carriageway, supported by a wide, flat wooden lintel and protected by street level corner stones, is a very rare survival of early vernacular architecture in Baltimore.

The houses are constructed in common bond, with the header course set every five rows, and were always painted. Several of the houses have been covered with formstone. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple corbelled brick cornice runs across the façade. There is a double chimney stack located at the peak of the gable roof. There is also a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. Door and window openings are surmounted by splayed brick lintels, and have wood sills. No original 6/6 sash remain, but those houses that have been restored now have 6/6 replacement sash. Other window openings are filled with 1/1 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms. The restored houses have modern six-panel doors; others have modern replacements. The entire first floor of 712 has been converted to a garage by the owner of 710, who has combined the two houses. The houses sit on low basements, some lit by a narrow sash, the entrances being reached directly from the sidewalk, or by a single brick step.

The houses are two small rooms deep, the front room being entered directly from the front door. The tightly winding, narrow stairs are located in the rear room, in a space formed by the partition wall and the fireplace of the rear room. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen. The dormer story has a single large room beneath the high rafters.

## Continuation sheet

718 – 720 S. Bethel St. are a pair of two-story houses with the low-pitched gable roof so characteristic of very modest houses built along alley streets and even narrower courts in the 1850s and 1860s. They are 14' and 16' wide, respectively, and occupy lots 70' deep. 718 has been remodeled twice—first with the addition of a late Italianate style wooden bracketed cornice in the early 1890s, at which time the Arts-and-Crafts-style door was probably added, and again in the 1950s or 1960s when the house was covered with formstone, which obscures all original features. A flat-linted sallyport runs back in the center of the pair. 720 is constructed in common bond, which was always painted. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple brick corbelled cornice covered over with aluminum siding. There is a double chimney stack located at the peak of the gable roof. Door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills. Openings are filled with new 6/6 sash at 720 and with 1/1 replacement sash at 718. The doorway at 718 has a single-light transom and an Arts-and-Crafts-style door; that of 720 has a new three-light sash and a modern six-panel door. The houses sit on very low basements, the entrances being reached directly from the street.

722 – 724 S. Bethel St. are two individual three-story late Italianate-style houses with shed roofs and wooden bracketed cornices. Their decorative brickwork shows the influence of the Queen Anne style, which first became popular in Baltimore in the late 1870s. They are 15' wide and occupy lots 82' deep. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the service entrance to the backyard is through the arched sallyports located within each house unit. The houses are constructed in running bond, which was always painted. The shed roofs have wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices consisting of a crown molding supported by three long, grooved brackets that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. Both houses also have a row of scroll-sawn modillions decorating the frieze area. At 722 the frieze area, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with circular and cross-like shapes, created by a jig saw. The lower edge of the frieze has jig-sawn vertical markings. At 722 the plain frieze area is decorated with a rope molding. Both houses also have rectangular wooden panels, with jig-sawn designs, decorated the brick frieze area created by the long brackets and the lower molding strip.

Door and window openings have elaborately decorated segmentally arched brick lintels. At 722 each lintel has a leaf-like terra cotta keystone and a row of similar terra cotta ornaments marks the façade at the second and third story levels, as well as being used to decorate the spaces between openings. The openings have brick sills and are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. At 724 the decorative lintels are composed of a row of projecting header bricks set above a flat row of headers and then a row where the headers alternately recede, creating a cut-out look. The tympanums are decorated with scroll-sawn designs and the sills are wood. Openings are filled with new 6/6 sash. The doorway at 722 has a single-light transom and an original Arts-and-Crafts-style door; that of 724 has a new double-light sash and a modern six-panel door. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by a single brick step.

726 – 730 S. Bethel St. are highly unusual two-story houses with mansard roofs that may represent a later updating of houses of the 1850s with low-pitched gable roofs. Two of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; one has been covered with formstone. The houses are 13', 12', and 10' wide, respectively, and occupy lots only 32' deep. They are constructed in common bond. The tall attic story has a mansard roof with dormer windows characteristic of a style seen in affluent sections of Baltimore in the late 1870s. Beneath the roof there is a simple brick corbelled cornice. Openings have no lintels and brick sills. 730, which has been restored, has new 6/6 sash, a new three-light doorway transom, and a modern six-panel door. 726 and 728 have 1/1 replacement sash, a single-light transom and replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a double-light sash (at 726), or with street level hinged coal doors. The houses are reached by one or two concrete or brick steps. 726 has an arched sallyport, leading to the rear yard, running back along the southern side of the house.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

**Specific dates** c. 1810; c. 1850 – 1860; c. 1890

**Builder/Architect**

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The west side of the 700 block of S. Bethel St. is extremely significant for containing a group of two-and-a-half story houses built in the early 1800s, when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Bethel Street was known as Apple Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

Other houses are significant as being representative of a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s and 1860s to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. House such as these have been remodeled over the years and were always occupied by stable, working class families.

The two three-story houses, with their Queen Anne-inspired decorative brickwork are important as illustrating that not only working class people made their homes on alley streets, but also more prosperous tradesmen of the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a block from the water, and represent an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotate Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023





B-4744  
704-730 S. Bethel Street  
Block 1811 Lots 092-079  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







704-706 S. Bethel

B-4744

704-730 S. Bethel St.

[704-706]

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

11/47

MA SHPO

1/10

1021400 0211 N N N 12

100



708 S, Bethel

B-4744

704-730 S, Bethel St.

[704]

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

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180

ES3402 0211 N N N 23

ONE WAY

NO  
PARKING  
ANYTIME  
STREET





710-716 S. Bethel

B-4744

704-730 S. Bethel St.

BACTO. MD

C. Belfour

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100

[32]402 6211

3/10

ONE WAY

NO  
PARKING  
ANYTIME  
STREET



716 S. Bethel

B-4744

716 S. Bethel St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

4/10

2011 NOV 10 11:02 AM



ONE WAY

NO PARKING  
ANY TIME  
BICYCLE  
STREET



718 S. Bethel

(718-720)

B-4744

704-730 S. Bethel St.

C7142

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BALTO. MD

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C50J402 600 1 4 x 5 1/2



720 S. Bethel

B-4744

704-730 S. Bethel St.

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[29]402 100 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12





722 S. Bethel

B-4744

704-730 S. Bethel St.

[722]

BALTO. MD.

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[28402 0211 14 11 13]



724 S. Bethel

B-4744

704-730 S. Bethel St.

[724] 8

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726-730 S. Bethel

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704-730 S. Bethel St

[726-730]

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730 S. Bethel

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730 S. Bethel St.

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[25] 10/12 10/11 10/10 10/9